



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the California Medical Association

Keeping Pace

LIFE HAS always changed. Never in the history of the world, however, has it changed with such rapidity as it does today.

"One thing that is new is the *prevalence of newness*, the changing scale and scope of change itself," observed scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer.

This new pace of change has begun to affect every facet of American life. Current political and social issues have arisen out of the real concern over the swiftness and quality of change. Surely change is at the heart of the medical-political issues of the day. Reactions to this change vary, among Auxiliary members, from cool, uncommitted aloofness, to deep anxiety, to resolute determination to control the direction of the change and preserve enduring values amidst the flux.

A second significant and alarming factor is the atmosphere of *adjustment vs. contribution*. Man today is drawn early into a vocation and "adjusts" to society, rather than making a positive contribution to it. There is a tendency toward conformity and sameness, while creative individuality is frowned upon.

The chief task of education is to shape the man—to guide him toward his own achievement. The formal period of education merely points a finger in the direction one must go; it is merely a beginning of what must be continued throughout life.

Here, Program finds its place. The entire field of human activity—work, friendship, love, art, music and poetry—can exert as powerful an influence on man as the formal process of education. Indeed, the liberally educated man knows how to enrich himself and others. His education opens the

door to a vital life in the society of men. A man must be something himself, before he can convey anything of value to others. If we fail to educate our members, they will become scientific drones.

The aim of the Auxiliary Program is twofold:

1. To educate our own members; to train and guide them toward a life of constructive action in the promotion of health, peace, justice and love.

2. To educate the poorly informed and interpret the medical profession's stand on social issues.

It was Ernest Cherrington who said, "We are now at the stage where the main emphasis must be laid on the dissemination of the truth. We need, as we have never needed, a campaign of education, with men and women going hither and thither in a great lecture campaign, weaving it across the nation like a weaver's shuttle."

There is one certainty: We cannot afford to be perplexed and groping, for everything we have honored for years seems to be crumbling. Nor can we return leisurely to the habits of the past. We must keep alive a sense of joy, a knowledge of traditions and values, a respect for the individual against bureaucratic depersonalization.

There is a lot of womanpower within the Medical Auxiliary (California's being the largest Auxiliary in the country), with talent, energy and will that can be utilized for progress.

These women cannot contribute, however, if they do not *know*. Through Program, physicians' wives become well informed and can provide a real extension of organized medicine into their communities. Through Program, physicians' wives are acquainted with the unmet needs of the communities and stimulated to do something about them.

A wide variety of projects—Legislation, Health Careers, AMA-ERF, Community Service, International Health Activities, to name only a few—enable Auxiliary members to demonstrate, through service, the very sincere concern of the medical profession for humanity.

A balance must be struck, however. When too much emphasis is placed upon *projects* and not enough upon *educating members* regarding aims and goals, there occurs a situation similar to sitting in a rocking chair—you achieve a sense of action without really going anywhere. *Know thyself* is the watchword for those who would provide leadership.

There has occurred a “program explosion” as well as a “population explosion.” The entire concept of Program has greatly expanded. No longer is Program simply 40 or 50 minutes of planned monthly entertainment—a series of films, speakers or panels. Program includes all we learn and do within Auxiliary. It is our *overall plan, effort, action and accomplishment*.

Inasmuch as Program has no subject matter pertaining to itself alone, the Program Chairman

is the coordinator of all of the other Auxiliary committees. Through Program she must create opportunities for each of the other chairmen to present materials that reflect Auxiliary aims and goals. She must provide opportunities for friendship, opportunities for Auxiliary to become a training ground for civic leadership, opportunities to “tell the medical story” to the public. And she must serve as the Auxiliary teacher, constantly orientating and educating members.

Among other things, the Woman’s Auxiliary is medicine’s diplomatic service. As the prime educational instrument of this diplomacy, Program enables us to fulfill the motto of the Auxiliary’s president, Mrs. Samuel Bacon, “MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING, M.D.’S WIFE!”

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